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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Federal Extension Service
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THE POLICIES, ROLE, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE *
TENNESSEE RURAL DEVELOPMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

I. General

About half of the rural families in Tennessee neither share fully in our economic and social progress nor contribute as much as they would like and can contribute to the State and the Nation's production of goods and services.

The aim of the Rural Development Program is to help such people, through their own efforts, to achieve a more productive and rewarding life. The approach must be broad to meet the educational, social and economic needs of this group. An integrated approach and coordination of all efforts is essential.

To guide the activities of the Rural Development Program Steering Committee, the following was adopted:

II. Procedural

A. Meetings

The State Steering Committee will meet at least once each quarter. The committee suggests that the State Rural Development Group meet with it at least once each year to review progress and provide guidance to the State Steering Committee.

B. Communications

1. The State Steering Committee will receive, interpret and disseminate information from the Washington level to the counties and from the county level back to Washington.
2. Communications involving policy or administrative matters will clear through usual administrative channels. Routine or informative type communications may be handled direct, with copies to appropriate agency heads.
3. Communications to local Rural Development Committees will be direct from the State Steering Committee to local chairmen, copies of which will be sent to the administrative head of all participating agencies, who, in turn, will make distribution within the agency at his discretion.

* Members made up of representatives of: SCS, Research, Extension, FHA, TVA, State Employment Security, Vocational Education.

C. Publicity

1. The State Steering Committee will assume responsibility for State publicity.
2. The State Steering Committee will encourage local Rural Development Committees to develop procedures for release of local publicity.
3. Personnel of participating agencies at the local level will be responsible for publicity relating to their own or cooperating programs.

III. Program Development and Operation

A. General

1. The State Steering Committee has the responsibility of developing a set of criteria to be used as guides in selecting additional pilot counties for participation in the Rural Development Program.
2. It will be the responsibility of the State Steering Committee to initiate procedures and select methods for evaluating progress in the Rural Development Program. This evaluation will be used to further the program in the present pilot counties and to guide programs in new counties.
3. The State Steering Committee will accept responsibility for being a clearing house of the ideas and experiences of operating rural programs. These ideas and experiences will be disseminated to all groups interested in the Rural Development Program.
4. The State Steering Committee will assume responsibility for seeing that a special orientation and training program in Rural Development is initiated for the agency representatives in the counties and local areas involved. Lay leaders will be included in this program as the opportunity and need arise.

B. Relations with Local Rural Development Committees

1. The State Steering Committee will encourage and counsel with local people in setting up Rural Development Committees in pilot counties analyzing local situations from the standpoint of identifying problems and in developing and carrying out programs directed toward their solution.

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2. The State Steering Committee will inform local Rural Development Committees of, and encourage the use of, facilities and services available from all sources that will facilitate implementation of the county program.
3. It is the policy of the State Steering Committee to encourage the appointment of nonagency personnel to the chairmanship of local Rural Development Committees.

